



County of Santa Cruz

Grand Jury

701 Ocean Street, Room 318-I
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2099

June 28, 2012

To the Citizens of Santa Cruz County:

We the Grand Jury are 19 citizens who are members of your communities. We serve under mandate of the California Constitution as the most independent investigative body in our county. We are all volunteers, independent of administrators, politicians and legislators. We encourage you, our fellow citizens, to read this report and let your voices be heard. The Carter Center states:

Democracy depends on a knowledgeable citizenry whose access to a range of information enables them to participate more fully in public life, help determine priorities for public spending, receive equal access to justice, and hold their public officials accountable.

In this report we endeavor to provide you, the citizens, with knowledge and information regarding various aspects of government, which we have analyzed and examined during the course of this year.

Given the current lack of civility and transparency in our nation's political discourse, we hope this report will become a catalyst for more collaboration between government and the citizens of our cities, county and other governmental agencies. As citizens we need to require this of our public servants, and also to require accountability by government of our limited resources. Government and the citizens of Santa Cruz County have a shared responsibility to provide the best services to all our citizens.

We ask that those who are required to respond to our Findings and Recommendations do so with information and thoughtful solutions to the issues of governance, and not merely in a technical manner. We truly believe that good governance is a collaborative effort between government and the citizenry.

I have been privileged to work with 18 other citizens during the past year, who have devoted many hours of their personal time to analyze local government and agencies. This report is the result of their hard work.

We thank all the people throughout the county who cooperated with our investigations and provided much of the information provided in this report. As citizens of the county, you should know that all these people are working on your behalf, with your best interests in mind.

We also thank our statutory advisors: The Honorable Timothy Volkmann, Presiding Judge, Chief Deputy County Counsel Rahn Garcia, and District Attorney Bob Lee. Their guidance and thoughtful responses to our inquiries were instrumental to our investigations.

On behalf of all the members of the 2011-2012 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury, I am proud to present the Final Report for 2011-2012.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay R. Leite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jay R. Leite

Foreperson